

Interview Summary

On April 09, 2008, Applicant's Representative, Brian Andress, conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Marcus Menezes.

Claim 1, and the pending §102 rejection were specifically discussed. In particular, Applicant suggested amending claim 1 to require that the first arrangement prevents rotation of the mounted sleeve of the first type in a clockwise direction and a counterclockwise direction.

The Examiner opined that the proposed amendment would likely overcome the pending §102 rejection. The Examiner also stated that an amendment after final would likely not be entertained, but he would consider it if filed.

Applicant has therefore prepared an Amendment, a copy of which is being filed herewith, along with a Request for Continued Examination.

Remarks

Claims 1-11 and 17-20 remain in the application with Claims 1 and 17 being in independent form. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 17-19 are currently amended. Claims 4, 8 and 20 remain as originally filed. Claims 12-16 were previously cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 17-19 stand objected to for informalities because the recited term “type” is ambiguous. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 17-19 are amended to correct any ambiguity. Throughout the claims, the claim language referring to a “sleeve of a first type” is changed to refer to a “first sleeve”, and the claim language referring to a “sleeve of a second type” is changed to refer to a “second sleeve”. Applicant respectfully submits that these changes correct any ambiguity related to the use of the term “type” within the claims.

Claims 1-11 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,561 to Hsieh. The Examiner contends that the Hsieh reference prevents rotation of a first sleeve relative to an end of the handle. In response to Applicant’s arguments filed in the Amendment dated December 05, 2007, the Examiner noted that the arrangement disclosed in the Hsieh reference prevents rotation in only one-direction. However, the Examiner further noted that the claims do not require the rotation be prevented in all directions.

In a telephone conference with the Examiner conducted on April 09, 2008, the Applicant suggested a proposed amendment to require that the first arrangement prevent rotation in both a clockwise direction and a counterclockwise direction. The Examiner opined that such an amendment would likely overcome the pending §102 rejection. Accordingly,

Claims 1 and 17 are currently amended to clarify that the first arrangement prevents rotation of the mounted first sleeve relative to the end in both a clockwise direction and a counterclockwise direction. As noted above, the Hsieh reference discloses a ratchet that prevents rotation of a mounted sleeve in one direction, but allows free rotation of the same sleeve in the opposite direction. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 17 as currently amended are not anticipated by the Hsieh reference. As claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and claims 18-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-11 and 18-20 are also not anticipated by the Hsieh reference.

The remaining references cited but not applied to the claims have been considered. Since the Examiner has apparently considered these references as less pertinent than the above discussed reference(s), further discussion of the non-applied references, at this time, is considered unnecessary. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the subject patent application patentably define over all references of record either independently or in combination.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C. for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

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